

### **Article 11 Work**

Governments must ensure that women have equal access to work, job training, job security, salaries, benefits, protection against dismissal during pregnancy and there should be support for parental duties of both women and men through social services.

### **Article 12 Health Care and Family Planning**

Governments must provide basic health care for women through better access to health care, family planning, and health care during pregnancy.

### **Article 13 Economic and Social Benefits**

Government should promote women's participation in economic and social life, including equal access to family benefits, as well as loans and credit, and leisure, sports and cultural life.

### **Article 14 Rural Women**

Rural women are a group of women who are often forgotten in government agendas. This article says that governments should ensure that rural women have full participation in the development process, including the

right to organize, access to credit, loans appropriate technology and equal treatment in agricultural reform and also to family planning and social security and adequate living conditions.

### **Article 15 Full legal status**

Women should have full legal status and equality under the law, including entering into contracts, administration of property, all stages of proceedings in courts and tribunals and freedom of movement and rights to domicile.

### **Article 16 Marriage and family**

This article promotes women's equality with men in marriage and family relations, in entering marriage freely, choosing a husband, in divorce, and in family planning decisions, with regard to looking after children, or any other transaction related to property.

### **Who benefits from CEDAW?**

Everyone benefits – the individual, the family, the community and the country as a whole.

## **CEDAW**

### **What is CEDAW?**

CEDAW stands for the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women. Papua New Guinea has agreed to apply CEDAW. CEDAW identifies 12 most critical areas of women's lives in which government action is most needed to stop discrimination against women.

### **Why a special convention on women?**

CEDAW was developed to bring people's attention to the concerns of the world's women and to ask governments to take actions to stop discrimination against women in these areas through a commitment to the Convention.

### **Does that mean that Papua New Guinea has to change its traditions and culture?**

No. The positive and good aspects of our culture is preserved and maintained. What is does recognize is that the Government needs to examine our cultural practices and try to change those that are harmful and discriminate against women.

**Does CEDAW takeaway men's rights?**

No, it promotes women's rights without affecting men's rights. Here is what CEDAW says.

**Article 1 Discrimination**

Discrimination against women means any action or situation that fails to fully recognize women's rights and therefore prevents women from receiving equal treatment with men.

**Article 2 Policies to stop discrimination against women**

Countries that have signed and approved CEDAW must include principles of equality in their constitutions and laws and must do all possible to amend customs that discriminate against women.

**Article 3 Basic Human Rights**

Women's full basic human rights and freedom must be given to them on an equal basis with men.

**Article 4 Temporary special action to reach equality**

Governments must implement short term actions to advance women's

equality. These are special temporary measures that are put in place until equality is achieved.

**Article 5 Social and Cultural attitudes and behaviours**

Governments must take measures to change/amend social and cultural behaviour and attitudes that discriminate against women and to include equal responsibility for the raising of children in family education, laws and policies.

**Article 6 Prostitution and Trafficking**

Governments must take all measures to stop all forms of trafficking in women and exploitation of prostitution. In doing so, governments must also deal with the root problems of prostitution and offer measures to reintegrate prostitutes in the society.

**Article 7 Political and Public Life**

Governments that sign the Convention must act to stop discrimination in public and political life and must ensure that all women have the right to vote and be eligible for election at all levels. Women must be able to take

part in making government policy, to hold public positions and to participate in non-government organizations (NGOs).

**Article 8 Participation at the International level**

This Article is to help women represent their country at the international level and participate in the work of international organizations.

**Article 9 Nationality**

Women should be able to acquire, change or keep their nationality, whether married or single and whatever the nationality of the husband and to have equal rights as regards the nationality of their children.

**Article 10 Education**

This section is designed to help women receive all forms of education, health and family planning, to stop stereotyping in school books and encourage the education of boys and girls together and to get women and girls together and to get women and girls full participation in sports.